

Message Text

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SUBJ: GIEREK AND JAROSZEWICZ SPEAK TO WORKERS; PRESS ATTACKS RFE

REF: (A) WARSAW 3998 (B) WARSAW 0871

1. SUMMARY: IN A SOBER EXHORTATION TO RADOM WORKERS ON JUNE 3, FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO DOMESTIC TENSIONS RELATED TO THE JUNE, 1976, PRICE-RISE DISTURBANCES. ON THE SAME DAY, PERMIER JAROSZEWICZ REPEATED CRITICISM OF ANTI-POLISH "POLITICAL GAMBLERS" IN A SPEECH TO NEW PARTY MEMBERS AT A WARSAW FACTORY. PRESS CRITICISM OF DISSIDENTS CONTINUED OVER THE WEEKEND. AN ARTICLE IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON JUNE 6 STRONGLY ATTACKED RADIO FREE EUROPE AND ALLEGED IT MAINTAINED TIES WITH THE DISSIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. GIEREK VISITED THE GENERAL WALTER METAL WORKS IN RADOM ON JUNE 3. IN A SPEECH AT ONE OF THE CENTERS OF THE JUNE, 1976, PRICE-RISE DISTURBANCES, HE CALLED FOR "SOLID WORK" AS "TODAY'S MAIN CRITERION FOR A PATRIOTIC ATTITUDE." IN HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO THE DISTURBANCES, GIEREK SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT THE WORKERS HAD "DRAWN THE PROPER CONCLUSIONS" FROM THE "DIFFICULT EXPER-

IENCES" OF THE PAST. HE SAID "MORAL-POLITICAL NATIONAL UNITY" WAS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER TO POLAND'S DEVELOPMENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SHORTCOMINGS IN SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN RADOM, BUT WARNED THAT THEY COULD NOT BE RESOLVED OVERNIGHT. GIEREK APPEARED TO BE CHIDING THE WORKERS WHEN HE NOTED THAT THE RADOM VOIVODESHIP HAD 2.1 PERCENT OF POLAND'S POPULATION, BUT ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 1.6 PERCENT OF THE GOODS AND SERVICES PRODUCED IN THE COUNTRY.

3. JAROSZEWICZ ALSO EMPHASIZED NATIONAL UNITY AS THE "MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE" IN A SPEECH HE GAVE IN WARSAW AT A CEREMONY FOR NEW PARTY MEMBERS ON JUNE 3. HE CRITICIZED WHAT HE CALLED A "NARROW GROUP" OF "RABBLE-ROUSERS" AND "POLITICAL GAMBLERS" WHO NEVER "DID ANYTHING GOOD FOR POLAND" AND WHO MOST RECENTLY EARNED THE CONTEMPT OF THE NATION FOR THE "POLITICAL PROVOCATION" IN KRAKOW AND THEIR "THEATRICAL HUNGER STRIKE" IN WARSAW.

4. THE JUNE 4-5 EDITION OF ZYCIE WARSZAWY KEPT THE ISSUE OF THE DISSIDENTS ALIVE BY PUBLISHING 21 OF THE "MOST REPRESENTATIVE" LETTERS IT RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO ITS ACCOUNTS OF THE KRAKOW DEMONSTRATION AND THE WARSAW HUNGER STRIKE. THE NEWSPAPER PRINTED A LETTER WHICH, IT SAID, REPRESENTED A TINY FRACTION OF THE MAIL RECEIVED BEFORE IT REPORTED THE EVENTS. THE LETTER CALLED THE DEATH OF STANISLAW PYJAS A "POLITICAL MURDER" AND APPEALED FOR A STOP TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRET POLICE. ALL THE OTHER LETTERS SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOR DISTURBING POLAND'S CHERISHED SOCIAL PEACE AND TRYING TO TROUBLE CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. ONE LETTER ASKED HOW LONG THE "BANKRUPT POLITICIANS" WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MEDDLE IN POLAND'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFAIRS.

5. THE JUNE 4-5 EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU MENTIONS THE DISSIDENTS IN AN EDITORIAL CONGRATULATING THE WESTERN PRESS AGENCIES IN WARSAW FOR FINALLY REPORTING THE POLISH SITUATION "OBJECTIVELY". THE EDITORIAL QUOTED FRAGMENTS OF THE WESTERN DISPATCHES WHICH REPORTED POLISH ANNOUNCEMENTS CALLING THE MAY EVENTS "PROVOCATIONS" AND LINKING MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO RADIO FREE EUROPE.

6. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MAY 6 CARRIED A MAJOR ARTICLE ENTITLED "ORGANIZED LYING" BY MICHAL MISIORNY, WHICH FOCUSES ON RADIO FREE EUROPE AS THE MOST OFFENSIVE OF SEVERAL STATIONS OPERATED BY THE UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. MISIORNY DENIES THAT RFE IS AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CONTINUES TO USE IT FOR "RECRUITMENT". HE SAYS THAT RFE'S CAMPAIGN HAS TAKEN ON A "GROTESQUE ASPECT" RECENTLY, TO THE POINT THAT CRITICALLY THINKING PEOPLE NO LONGER TREAT IT SERIOUSLY.

MISIORNY SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZES LESZEK KOLAKOWSKI, IN ADDITION TO ADAM MICHNIK AND JACEK KURON, FOR CONTENDING THAT POLAND IS A TOTALITARIAN STATE. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT RFE IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF CSCE.

7. COMMENT: WE WERE PEMATURE IN OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE PRESS CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DISCREDITING PARTICIPANTS IN THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS WAS TAPERING OFF (REF A). A CONCERTED EFFORT SEEMS TO BE UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH RADIO FREE EUROPE AS AN ORGANIZATION "HARMFUL TO THE POLISH STATE" AND THE WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE AS A GROUP WHICH COULD BE PROSECUTED FOR SUPPLYINT IT WITH INFORMATION. THE ZYCIE WARSZAWY COMMENTARY ALSO REFLECTS INCREASED CONCERN THAT THE CHURCH MAY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE.

8. EVEN AS THE MEDIA CRITICISM CONTINUES, HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE SEEKING TO DEFUSE THE ISSUE. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRYBUNA LUDU EDITORIAL OF JUNE 4-5 IS A THINLY-VEILED ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE WESTERN JOURNALISTS FROM FURTHER REPORTING OF DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. GIEREK'S SPEECH IN RADOM WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS FAILURE TO MENTION THE SUBJECT AT ALL. HIS VISIT TO THE WALTER FACTORY RESEMBLED HIS TRIP IN FEBRUARY TO THE OTHER CENTER OF THE JUNE, 1976, UNREST, THE URSUS PLANT (REF B). AT THAT TIME, GIEREK HELD OUT THE PROMISE OF PARDON FOR WORKERS JAILED AFTER THE PRICE RIOTS. HIS TONE IN RADOM WAS STERNER.

9. OBSERVERS HERE ARE STILL BAFFLED BY THE WIDESPREAD PRESS CAMPAIGN, DESPITE THE APPARENT LACK OF ANY CHANGE IN THE STRENGTH OF THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND THE PRESUMED DESIRE OF THE AUTHORITIES TO BE FREE OF THE ISSUE. THE ZYCIE WARSZAWY ARTICLE MIGHT BE EXPLAINED AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE EDITORS TO JUSTIFY THEIR PREVIOUS PUBLICITY EFFORTS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT INCLUDES THE FIRST OVERT REFERENCE IN THE POLISH PRESS LINKING THE SECRET POLICE WITH PYJAS'S DEATH, THE ARTICLE ALSO KEEPS ALIVE THE SUPPOSITION THAT THE PRESS CAMPAIGN IS BEING USED BY THOSE WHO ARE MANEUVERING WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP. END COMMENT.

DAVIES

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